

REMARKS

Introduction

The Examiner has alleged that the claims are directed to the following patentably distinct species:

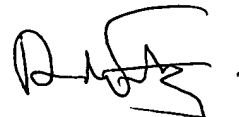
- I. Species of claims 1, 5, and 9, which comprises additional steps of searching a first preferred vendor database.
- II. Species of claims 1-4, and 9-12, which are drawn to a machine-readable code.
- III. Species of claims 1, 6, 9 and 13, wherein scanner is laser-based.
- IV. Species of claims 1, 7, 9, and 14, wherein scanner uses OCR.
- V. Species of claims 1, 8, 9, and 15, wherein scanner is RFID scanner.

Applicants provisionally elect Group I as defined above. Applicants have also added new claims dependent off of claims 1, 5, and 9.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments, arguments and papers filed herewith, it is respectfully submitted that prosecution on the merits should continue. The Application is now believed to be in a condition for allowance, which is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Didier Frantz', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Didier Frantz